

Message Text

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SUBJ: VENEZUELAN DELEGATION TO THE WORLD POPULATION
CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 161933

1. IN SPITE OF THE MEASURES WHICH THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF
PRESIDENT PEREZ HAS TAKEN TO EXPAND THE AVAILABILITY OF FAMILY
PLANNING SERVICES THROUGH THE INCORPORATION OF PRIVATELY
SPONSORED FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S HEALTH
SERVICES. GOV PREPARATIONS FOR THE WORLD POPULATION CONFERENCE
HAVE BEEN DISTRESSINGLY TARDY. IN PART THIS REFLECTS THE
RATIONALE WHICH BOTH GOV OFFICIALS AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS
CONCERNED WITH PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING HAVE CHOSEN TO JUSTIFY
THEIR PROGRAMS, WHICH IS TO PLAY DOWN DEMOGRAPHIC ASPECTS AND
POPULATION POLICY WHILE EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE
INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHT TO CONTROL THEIR OWN FERTILITY. CONSEQUENTLY,
SEVERAL OF THE VENEZUELAN WHO HAVE BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL IN
PROMOTING FAMILY PLANNING HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ATTEND THE
CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN A DISTINCTION BETWEEN "HEALTH
SERVICES" AND "POPULATION POLICY."

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2. THE VENEZUELAN DELEGATION WILL BE HEADED BY THE MINISTER OF

HEALTH, DR. BLAS BRUNI CELLI, A FIRM SUPPORTER OF FAMILY PLANNING. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE MINISTER WILL BE ABLE TO REMAIN AT THE CONFERENCE FOR MORE THAN ONE WEEK. DRA. BRENDA DE FIGUEROA, THE SECOND RANKING OFFICIAL FROM THE DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION OF THE GOV'S OFFICE OF PLANNING, WILL PRESENT VENEZUELA'S STATEMENT AND DOCUMENTATION.

3. EVEN AT THIS LATE DATE THE GOV HAS NOT NAMED ITS FULL DELEGATION WHICH IS EPECTED TO INCLUDE ABOUT EIGHT OR TEN PERSONS. THERE REPORTEDLY WILL BE SEVERAL REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH, BUT NOT INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR CHARGED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOV'S FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES. THERE WILL ALSO REPORTEDLY BE AT LEAST ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE CENTRAL UNIVERSITY OF VENEZUELA.

4. DR. HENRY GOMEZ, DEAN OF THE PRESTIGIOUS INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED ADMINISTRATIVE STUDIES (IESA) IN CARACAS, WILL ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AS A PARTICIPANT. WHILE IESA HAS AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN POPULATION STUDIES HE SHOULD NOT BE URGED TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF VENEZUELA. DR. GOMEZ IS A COLOMBIAN AND STATEMENTS THAT HE MIGHT MAKE ON POPULATION POLICY WITH REFERENCE TO VENEZUELA COULD BE CONTROVERSIAL HERE.

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